RAJYA SABHA

Monday, the 20th August, 2001/29 Sravana, 1923 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock, **Mr. Chairman** *in the Chair.*

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Commercial FM broadcasting licences in the country

*381. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the list of parties who have applied for commercial FM broadcasting licences in India over the past three years;

(b) the details of ownership of the firms involved in making the bids;

(c) the list of parties that have paid security deposit for setting up FM stations;

(d) the parties that have defaulted in setting up the FM stations, and those which have declared their intention to the government for not setting up the same; and

(e) by when are the various stations expected to launch broadcasts, giving scheduled dates of going on the air in each case?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The list of companies who submitted Tenders in response to the Notice Inviting Tender for licensing for Private FM Broadcasting Services is given at in Statement-I (*See* below).

(b) The list of firms who were found eligible to make bids in the open auction is listed at in Statement-II. (*See* below).

(c) The list of companies who have submitted the Bank Guarantee and have signed the Licence Agreement for setting up FM station, is given in Statement-III. (*See* below).

(d) The list of parties who have defaulted in submission of Bank Guarantee and signing of Licence Agreement, and have asked for

refund of the advance reserve licence fee is given in Statement-IV. (*See* below).

(e) The licencees are required to complete the installation of the broadcast facility and commission the service within 12 months from the date of frequency earmarking by Wireless Planning & Coordination (WPC) Wing, Ministry of Communications. M/s Music Broadcast Pvt. Ltd. have commenced FM broadcast from Bangalore, on 3 /7 / 2001.

Statement-I

List of Companies who responded to the Tender

S. No.	Name of Company
1.	M/s. Aban Informatics Pvt. Limited, Chennai
2.	M/s. ACT Shipping
3.	M/s. Arya Communications & Electronics Services
4.	M/s. Bennett Coleman and Company
5.	M/s. Bhaskar Graphics
6.	M/s. Bollywood Broadcasting Co. Pvt. Limited
7.	M/s. Business India Publications Limited, New Delhi
8.	M/s. Capital Broadcasting Co. Pvt. Limited
9.	M/s. Carnival Investment Limited
10.	M/s. Dakshin Bharat Petrochem Limited
11.	M/s. Dhun Radio Pvt. Limited
12.	M/s. Dolly Entertainment Pvt. Limited
13.	M/s. Dream Radio (India) Pvt. Limited
14.	M/s. Geet Broadcasting Co. Pvt. Limited
15.	M/s. Gujrat Broadcasting Co. Pvt. Limited
16.	M/s. Gujrat Flouro Chemicals Limited
17.	M/s. Hind Broadcasting Co. Pvt. Limited
18.	M/s. Hindustan Times Limited
19.	M/s. Hitech Industries Limited
20.	M/s. Hitz FM Radio India Pvt. Limited
21.	M/s. India FM Radio Pvt. Limited

S. No.	Name of Company
22.	M/s. Indian Express Newspapers (Bombay) Pvt. Limited
23.	M/s. Indigo Radio Pvt. Limited
24.	M/s. IRL Marketing Pvt. Limited
25.	M/s. Ishaan Research Limited
26.	M/s. Kismat Broadcasting Co. Pvt. Limited
27.	M/s. Kismat Radio (India) Pvt. Limited
28.	M/s. Living Media India Limited
29.	M/s. Hathway Investment Limited
30.	M/s. Jagran Prakashan Limited
31.	M/s. Sumangali Publication Limited
32.	M/s. Udaya TV Limited
33.	M/s. Magic Radio India Pvt. Limited
34.	M/s. Millennium Delhi Broadcast (Pvt.) Limited
35.	M/s. Modi Entertainment Network, New Delhi
36.	M/s. Moving Picture Co. (I) Pvt. Limited
37.	M/s. Music Broadcast Pvt. Limited
38.	M/s. Neffs (India) Pvt. Limited, Guwahati
39.	M/s. New Digital Radio Pvt. Limited
40.	M/s. New Media Broadcasting Pvt. Limited
41.	M/s. Nimbus Communication Limited
42.	M/s. Observer Network Pvt. Limited
43.	M/s. Orissa Concrete and Allied Ind. Limited, Raipur
44.	M/s. Pearl Energy Infrastructure Limited
45.	M/s. Profitech Trade & Investment Pvt. Limited
46.	M/s. Mid-day Radio North (India) Limited, Mumbai
47.	M/s. Mid-day Broadcasting South (India) Limited, Mumbai
48.	M/s. Radio Mid-day West (India), Mumbai
49.	M/s. Radio Star In. Stereo, New Delhi

S. No.	Name of Company
50.	M/s. Raj Telefilms Limited, Chennai
51.	M/s. Sitara Radio (India) Pvt. Limited
52.	M/s. South Asia Multimedia Pvt. Limited
53.	M/s. Star Green Bills
54.	M/s. Suraj Broadcasting Co. Pvt. Limited
55.	M/s. United Liner Agencies of India (Pvt.) Limited
56.	M/s. Vertex Broadcasting Co. Pvt. Limited
57.	M/s. Writers & Publishers Limited
58.	M/s. Asianet, Chennai
59.	M/s. Bhaskar Industries Limited, Jallandhar
60.	M/s. J.M. Perfumery, Mumbai
61.	M/s. Jain Studios
62.	M/s. Mahavir Aluminum Limited
63.	M/s. Shravya Investment Pvt. Limited
64.	M/s. Traders Private Limited
65.	M/s. Hindustan Broadcasting Co. Pvt. Limited
66.	M/s. Zee Telefilms Limited.

Statement-II

List of Firms Eligible for Making Bids

S. No.	Name of Company
1.	M/s. Aban Informatics Pvt. Limited, Chennai
2.	M/s. ACT Shipping
3.	M/s. Arya Communications & Electronics Services
4.	M/s. Bennett Coleman and Company
5.	M/s. Bhaskar Graphics
6.	M/s. Bollywood Broadcasting Co. Pvt. Limited
7.	M/s. Business India Publications Limited, New Delhi
8.	M/s. Capital Broadcasting Co. Pvt. Limited

S. No.	Name of Company
9.	M/s. Carnival Investment Limited
10.	M/s. Dakshin Bharat Petrochem Limited
11.	M/s. Dhun Radio Pvt. Limited
12.	M/s. Dolly Entertainment Pvt. Limited
13.	M/s. Dream Radio (India) Pvt. Limited
14.	M/s. Geet Broadcasting Co. Pvt. Limited
15.	M/s. Gujrat Broadcasting Co. Pvt. Limited
16.	M/s. Gujrat Flouro Chemicals Limited
17.	M/s. Hind Broadcasting Co. Pvt. Limited
18.	M/s. Hindustan Times Limited
19.	M/s. Hitech Industries Limited
20.	M/s. Hitz FM Radio India Pvt. Limited
21.	M/s. India FM Radio Pvt. Limited
22.	M/s. Indian Express Newspapers (Bombay) Pvt. Limited
23.	M/s. Indigo Radio Pvt. Limited
24.	M/s. IRL Marketing Pvt. Limited
25.	M/s. Ishaan Research Limited
26.	M/s. Kismat Broadcasting Co. Pvt. Limited
27.	M/s. Kismat Radio (India) Pvt. Limited
28.	M/s. Living Media India Limited
29.	M/s. Hathway Investment Limited
30.	M/s. Jagran Prakashan Limited
31.	M/s. Sumangali Publication Limited
32.	M/s. Udaya TV Limited
33.	M/s. Magic Radio India Pvt. Limited
34.	M/s. Millennium Delhi Broadcast (Pvt.) Limited
35.	M/s. Modi Entertainment Network, New Delhi
36.	M/s. Moving Picture Co. (I) Pvt. Limited
37.	M/s. Music Broadcast Pvt. Limited
38.	M/s. Neffs (India) Pvt. Limited, Guwahati

S. No.	Name of Company
39.	M/s. New Digital Radio Pvt. Limited
40.	M/s. New Media Broadcasting Pvt. Limited
41.	M/s. Nimbus Communication Limited
42.	M/s. Observer Network Pvt. Limited
43.	M/s. Orissa Concrete and Allied Ind. Limited, Raipur
44.	M/s. Pearl Energy Infrastructure Limited
45.	M/s. Profitech Trade & Investment Pvt. Limited
46.	M/s. Mid-day Radio North (India) Limited, Mumbai
47.	M/s. Mid-day Broadcasting South (India) Limited, Mumbai
48.	M/s. Radio Mid-day West (India) Mumbai
49.	M/s. Radio Star In. Stereo, New Delhi
50.	M/s. Raj Telefilms Limited, Chennai
51.	M/s. Sitara Radio (India) Pvt. Limited
52.	M/s. South Asia Multimedia Pvt. Limited
53.	M/s. Star Green Bills
54.	M/s. Suraj Broadcasting Co. Pvt. Limited
55.	M/s. United Liner Agencies of India (Pvt.) Limited
56.	M/s. Vertex Broadcasting Co. Pvt. Limited
57.	M/s. Writers & Publishers Limited
58.	M/s. Hindustan Broadcasting Co. Pvt. Limited

Statement-III

List of Companies issued lincences

S. No.	Name of Company
1.	Entertainment Network (India) Ltd.
2.	Vertex B' Casting Co. Pvt. Ltd
3.	India FM Radio Pvt. Ltd., N. Delhi
4, 5, 6	Radio Today (Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta)
7.	Music B' Cast Pvt. Ltd.

S. No.	Name of Company
8.	M/s. Sun TV
9, 10, 11	Millenium (Delhi/Chennai/Mumbai) B' Cast (Pvt.) Ltd.
12.	M/s. Udaya TV Limited
13.	Hitz FM Radio India Pvt. Ltd.
14.	Radio Mid-day West (India) Ltd., Mumbai
15.	Mid-day Radio North (India) Ltd., Mumbai
16.	Mid-day B' Casting South (India) Ltd., Mumbai

Statement-V

List of Defaulting Companies

S. No.	Name of Company
1.	New Media B' Casting Pvt. Ltd.
2.	Vertex B' Casting Company Pvt. Ltd.
3.	Indigo Radio Pvt. Ltd.
4.	Hind B' Casting Co. Pvt. Ltd.
5.	Magic Radio India Pvt. Ltd.
6.	Dream Radio (India) Pvt. Ltd.
7.	Kismat Radio (India) Pvt. Ltd.
8.	Dhun Radio Pvt. Ltd.
9.	Bollywood B' Casting Pvt. Ltd.
10.	Observer Network Pvt. Ltd.
11.	Nimbus Communications Ltd.
12.	Neffs (India) Pvt. Ltd.
13.	Modi Entertainment Network
14.	Raj Telefilms Ltd.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Sir, it is for the first time in the history of broadcasting in this country that privatisation is taking place under the aegis of this Government. Privatisation is taking place in such a haste that it is like putting a cart before the horse and horse is not there but the cart is moving. The position is like this. These are not corporate houses and all these people, private economy and market economy, are driven by the market forces.

Whatever they put there, pleases the customers. There is no code of conduct as for as I know. So far as the All India Radio is concerned, there is a broadcasting code which specifies what the All India Radio cannot do about delegates of friendly countries, different religions, and so many others things are there. But this does not apply, as far as I know, to these private channels. Now in the report of the Review Committee on the working of Prasar Bharati, which is about the code of conduct, at page 51, paragraph 12.2.14, the recommendation, which is with regard to the Broadcasting Council, says, "We strongly recommend that there should be a single complaints mechanism for all broadcasters and it has to be set up separately under the aegis of the Broadcasting Authority—this is very important—so that the market forces do not take these things anywhere. "Broadcasting is so sensitive an issue. What steps has the Government taken in this regard? What is the position in regard to the complaint mechanism? Would the Minister enlighten the House on this subject?

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज: सभापति जी, घोड़े के आगे गाड़ी मैं नहीं खड़ी कर रही हूं, लेकिन माननीय सदस्य ने जरूर घोड़े के आगे गाड़ी खड़ी कर दी है। यह जो सवाल उन्होंने पूछा है, अगर उनको जानकारी है तो अभी तो यह एफएम ब्रॉडकास्टिंग शुरू ही नहीं हुई है। तो वे किस ब्रॉडकास्टर के कौन-से कोड की बात कर रहे हैं? इस देश में प्रोग्राम कोड, एडवरटाइजमेंट कोड सब ब्रॉडकास्टर्स के लिए है जो इस समय ब्रॉडकास्टिंग कर रहे हैं और उन तमाम पर यह लागू होगा जो आगे ब्रॉडकास्ट करेंगे। लेकिन एफएम ब्रॉडकास्टिंग जुम्मा-जुम्मा एक व्यक्ति ने शुरू किया है। केवल बंगलौर में एक एफएम ब्रॉडकास्टिंग स्टेशन अभी शुरू हुआ है, जिसके बारे में कम्पलेंट आने का सवाल ही पैदा नहीं होता। आप कौन से मार्केटिंग फोर्स की बात कर रहे हैं, कौन-से ब्रॉडकास्ट की बात कर रहे हैं, किसकी शिकायत की बात कर रहे हैं? जिन 40 स्टेशनों पर एफएम ब्रॉडकास्टिंग लगना था उनमें से 19 को बैंक गारंटी मिल गई है और उन 19 को लाइसेंस इश्यू किए गए हैं। एक में ब्राडकास्टिंग केवल एक, सवा महीने पहले हुआ है तो कैसी शिकायत आ गई? आप घोड़े के आगे गाड़ी को खड़ी करके यह सवाल पूछ रहे हैं। मैंने तो सोचा था कि आप इसके बाकी आयामों से जुड़े सवाल पूछेंगे। लेकिन जो शुरू ही नहीं हुआ उसके बारे में आपने सवाल पूछ डाला।

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: What is the Minister saying? Is she saying that one broadcasting station just can broadcast whatever they want and that the code of conduct would come only after the complaints are made? What is she saying?

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज: आपने जो पहले सप्लीमेंटरी का सप्लीमेंटरी पूछा है, पहले उसका जवाब मैं दे दूं। मैं यह नहीं कह रही हूं कि ब्रॉडकास्ट के बाद शिकायत आएगी। आई एम ओन्ली

सेइंग कि अभी तो किसी ने ब्रॉडकास्टिंग शुरू ही नहीं किया। हमारे यहां प्रोग्राम कोड है, ब्रॉडकास्टिंग कोड है और जो यहां पर कोड का सवाल है यह उन सब पर यह लागू है जो ब्रॉडकास्टिंग कर रहे हैं और यह उन सब पर लागू होगा जो आगे स्टार्ट करेंगे।

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: This broadcasting code is for the All India Radio. I have got it with me. It is only for the All India Radio. The Minister should have clarified whether this broadcasting code also applies to the private braodcasters or not. That is what she should have clarified.

Now I put my second supplementary. There is a large-scale privatisation of our airwaves and the All India Radio. On the one hand we are privatising all these channels and on the other hand, in the All India Radio and the Prasar Bharti, which are supposed to be autonomous, there is no autonomy. The Prasar Bharti Board is in complete doldrums. The Board has not been constituted properly. There is no Chairman; and, out of three part-time members, now, there are only two members, and one member, Shri B.G. Verghese, is practically a Government servant. Then, some Additional Secretary is functioning as Chairman. There is one Prof. U. R. Rao, who is a technology man and hence not competent to handle this type of a job. I want to know from the hon. Minister what steps the Government is going to take to duly constitute the Prasar Bharti Board....

MR. CHAIRMAN: This supplementary does not arise out of the question.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: In the context of this supplementary, I am raising this....

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, this is not a related supplementary.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Sir, I will go by your ruling. Now, I would like to know how much funds have been collected for setting up of these radio stations. The position is that there is a fear that the companies which have bid very high may comeback and say, The market is not good; therefore, decrease the money that is due from us. I would like to know how much money the Government has received from the bids. I would also like to know whether the Government contemplating to reduce the bidding in case the companies say that they had bid too high and the market does not justify that much of bidding.

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज: सभापति महोदय, पहले सवाल की तो आपने जवाब देने की अनुमति दी ही नहीं है। जहां तक दूसरा सवाल उन्होंने किया है, जिन 16 कंपनियों ने बैंक गारंटी दे दी है, उनके 158 करोड़ 75 लाख रुपये हमारे पास आ गये हैं जबकि टोटल हम लोगों ने इसका रिजर्व प्राइस 75 करोड़ 40 लाख रुपये आंका था जिसमें से 37 करोड़ 70 लाख रुपये हम लोगों को

यानी 50 फीसदी उसी समय मिल गया था लेकिन उसमें से चूंकि 2 कंपनियां ऐसी हैं जिनका सिक्युरिटी क्लीयरेंस नहीं आया इसलिए उनका लगभग तीन करोड़ रुपया वापिस करना पड़ा। इस प्रकार से 34 करोड़ रुपया हमारे पास आया हुआ है, कुछ अर्नेस्ट मनी डिपोज़िट आया हुआ है। We have received Rs. 158.76 crores from 16 companies.

SHRI KARTAR SINGH DUGGAL: Sir, I would like the hon Minister to state what precautions have been taken to ensure that the norms of minimum acceptability of programmes, so far as FM stations are concerned, are adhered to.

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज: सभापति महोदय, जैसे मैंने कहा कि एक कोड है प्रोग्राम कोड, एडवरटाइजमेंट कोड जो कि सभी ब्रॉडकास्टर्ज पर लागू होता है लेकिन खास तौर पर एफएम स्टेशंस के बारे में मैं माननीय सदस्य को बताना चाहूंगी कि इसमें हमने दिया है केवल इंटरटेनमेंट, म्युज़िक एंड इनफॉरमेशन। अभी न्यूज और करंट अफेयर्स इस चेनल को नहीं दिया गया। यह इंटरटेनमेंट के चैनल ही होंगे, म्युज़िक और इनफॉरमेशन के चैनल होंगे।

SHRI KULDIP NAYYAR: Will the hon. Minister let me know if there is any policy to discourage big newspapers from owning these FM stations?

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज: जी, नहीं।

श्री कुलदीप नैयर: अगर नहीं, तो क्यों नहीं और हां तो क्यों?

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज: क्योंकि हमारे यहां अभी कोई क्रॉस मीडिया रिस्ट्रिक्शन नहीं है, इसलिए नहीं।

Evaluation of assets of Air India

†*382. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the process of disinvestment of majority shares of Government in Air India is at an advanced stage;

(b) if so, the method adopted by Government to evaluate the value of assets of the company at the current prices and the name of the agencies involved in the process;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.